

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An infrared (IR) receiving device comprising IR detector elements (3) for receiving IR signals from a communication zone (5), as well as a processing circuit for deriving electric signals corresponding to the IR signals received, wherein the IR detector elements (3) are provided in at least one matrix-type arrangement (2) which corresponds to a matrix-type segmentation of the communication zone (5), and the processing circuit comprises a maximum detector circuit (9) connected to the IR detector elements (3), which maximum detector circuit (9) selects one respective maximum output signal from among the output signals of the IR detector elements (3) for deriving the electric signal, characterized in that wherein a threshold-value-forming unit (11) is connected to the IR detector elements (3) whose output is connected to the input (22) of a comparator (12) at whose other input (21) the respective maximum IR detector element output signal is applied, and in that each IR detector element (3.i) for selecting the

maximum output signal has at least one consecutive diode (14.ia, 14.ib), the diodes being interconnected by their sides facing away from the IR detector elements (3.i).

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least two matrix-type IR detector element arrangements (2a, 2b) are provided, the positions of the IR detector elements (3) being offset relative to each other from array to array.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the IR detector elements (3) are provided in a chessboard-type arrangement, with their active detector surfaces being substantially consecutively arranged, without gaps.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a common imaging lens (4) is arranged in front of the or each IR detector element arrangement (2).

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the diodes, or the diodes (14.ib) of one group,

respectively, are connected to a common resistor (20) from which the respective maximum IR detector element output signal can be taken and supplied to the other input (21) of the comparator (12).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that claim 1,~~ wherein the diodes, or the diodes (14.ia) of another group, respectively, are connected to the threshold-value-forming unit (11).

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that claim 1,~~ wherein the threshold-value-forming unit (11) is formed by an RC unit (16).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that claim 1,~~ wherein the threshold-value-forming unit (11) has a voltage divider (18, 19) from which the threshold voltage is supplied to the one input (22) of the comparator (12).

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that claim 1,~~
wherein the diodes (14.ia, 14.ib) are interconnected in groups.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A receiving device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that claim 1,~~
wherein the diodes (14.ia, 14.ib) are interconnected by their cathodes.